



**State of Illinois**  
Pat Quinn, Governor

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**CONTACT:**  
Guy Tridgell 312.814.4693  
Josh Kauffman 217.558.0517  
Janet Foran (Michigan) 517.335.7176  
Will Wingfield (Indiana) 317.233.4675

## **Public Meetings Scheduled for Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac Passenger Rail Corridor Program**

CHICAGO – The departments of transportation for Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, in association with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), are announcing a series of public meetings for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared for the Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac Passenger Rail Corridor Program. The meetings are being held to:

- Introduce the public to the program,
- Discuss the purpose and need for improvements,
- Present a range of possible route alternatives, and
- Identify potential issues that should be considered in the EIS.

The EIS is being prepared to evaluate passenger rail improvements along a 304-mile rail corridor between Chicago and Detroit/Pontiac, Mich. The EIS will evaluate the effects of upgrading rail infrastructure and facilities to safely accommodate potential passenger rail service improvements. Effects on the natural environment, jobs, the economy, air quality, traffic, and neighborhoods will be considered.

MDOT and its state and federal partners are seeking input from all members of the public, government agencies and tribes. Staff will be available to answer questions at four upcoming meetings. Exhibits and other reference materials will be on display and presentations made.

All comments must be received by Oct. 15 to be included in this step of the EIS process. Multiple options for submitting comments are available including:

- Fill out a comment form at a public meeting,
- Use the online comment form at [www.GreatLakesRail.org](http://www.GreatLakesRail.org),
- Dial the toll-free number at 877-351-0853, and
- Mail your written comments to Bob Parsons, MDOT, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909.

Public meetings will be held in each of the three states and will be open to the public between 4 and 7 p.m. A presentation will be held at 4:30 p.m. and repeated at 6 p.m. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

### **Illinois**

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 4 to 7 p.m. CDT  
Chicago Union Station in the Union Gallery Room (off the Great Hall)  
500 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

### **Indiana**

Thursday, Sept. 13, 4 to 7 p.m. CDT  
Michigan City – City Hall  
100 East Michigan Blvd., Michigan City

### **Michigan**

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 4 to 7 p.m. EDT  
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel  
5801 Southfield Expressway, Detroit

Thursday, Sept. 27, 4 to 7 p.m. EDT  
Radisson Plaza Hotel  
100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo  
(Parking validation will be provided for the Radisson parking garage.)

An online public meeting also will be provided where the public can conveniently view all meeting information. This self-guided meeting will be available at [www.GreatLakesRail.org](http://www.GreatLakesRail.org) starting Friday, Sept. 7, 2012.

### **Fast Facts:**

- Departments of transportation in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana are hosting a series of public meetings to help prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac Passenger Rail Corridor.
- The EIS will help evaluate passenger rail improvements along a 304-mile corridor in three states.
- Public comments must be received by Oct. 15 and can be submitted in multiple ways.
- Check the website for more details: [www.GreatLakesRail.org](http://www.GreatLakesRail.org).

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